

# **DOAJ – All there is to know, and beyond**

The National Library of Finland

Helsinki Febr 6<sup>th</sup> 2018 Lars Bjørnshauge

[lars@doaj.org](mailto:lars@doaj.org)

- What are we doing?
- Who benefits?
- Who we are
- How do we work?
- How much do we work?
- Questionable publishers? How do we keep DOAJ clean?
- Dissemination
- How are we funded?
- Governance
- Sustainability
- Collaboration
- - and beyond - developments

# What are we doing??

## Our mission

## It is all about...

Making Open Access journals more  
attractive as publishing channels!

The mission of DOAJ is to help publishers do a  
better job in making their journals **attractive,**  
**transparent** publishing channels on a global  
scale

Who benefits from the work we  
are doing?

# Who benefits from the work we are doing?

- DOAJ enables **researchers, students** and the **public** to search for good open access journals, and by that prevents the use of unethical or questionable journals.
- DOAJ allow **researchers, and those who advise them**, to find proper publishing channels, and even such that complies with their **funder policies and mandates**.

# Who benefits from the work we are doing?

- Research managers:
  - are using DOAJ and DOAJ data to determine whether researchers are publishing in good open access journals.
  - use DOAJ to monitor compliance with open access policies and mandates.

# Who benefits from the work we are doing?

- Authors/researchers:
  - DOAJ is a reference point for researchers looking for good publishing channels within their field of research, they can check whether a journal complies with funder or university open access mandates. By using DOAJ for identifying good open access journals they can be reassured that they do not submit their papers to questionable journals.



# Who benefits from the work we are doing?

- Research funders
  - look to DOAJ to check for good open access journals, to check whether they comply with their policies and mandates,
  - several funders have open access publication funds and often listing in DOAJ is an eligibility criterion for getting support
  - operate list of Approved Publication Channels and want good OA-journals included

# Who benefits from the work we are doing?

- Libraries:
  - Libraries are providing advice to researchers as to where to publish, and DOAJ is an important tool in that regard.
  - Libraries are often the managers of open access publication funds at universities, more often than not listing in DOAJ is mandatory for journals to be eligible for support from such open access publication funds.

# Who benefits from the work we are doing?

- Publishers/Learned Societies:
  - Publishers are an important stakeholder group in relation to the DOAJ. Listing in the DOAJ, this provides a **stamp of quality**.
  - The DOAJ criteria offer a checklist describing **best practice** that is useful for new enterprises, scholar publishers and publishers moving from a subscription-based portfolio to including open access titles.
  - The value of the DOAJ to publishers is demonstrated in the number of sponsorships the service receives.
  - Learned Societies are also important stakeholders. DOAJ helps societies understand the basic requirements of open access and help them to find a best way of switching from a society journal to an open access journal by redefining their source of income.

Who we are

# The DOAJ core team

- Managing Director
  - Operations Manager
  - Project and Communications Manager
  - Editor-in-Chief
  - Senior Managing Editor
  - 6 Managing Editors
  - We are based in Sweden, United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Italy, Spain, India & Denmark
- And...

# Volunteers and Ambassadors

- 50+ **Voluntary** Editors/Associate Editors working unpaid a few hours/week – distributed in editorial groups managing 20+ languages
- 20 **Ambassadors** recruited to
  - Promote DOAJ
  - Handle applications of journals to be listed in DOAJ
  - Promote best publishing practice and
  - Help identifying and spotting questionable and unethical publishers
- Ambassadors are based in
  - China, India, Russia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Algeria, South Africa and Mexico, Indonesia & Korea – covering Asia, Middle East, Africa and Latin America

How do we work??

# How do we work?

- Journals apply via the application form
- The application form is available in 13 languages



- The new application form:
- <http://doaj.org/application/new>

## DOAJ Journal Application Form

All the information provided will help our Editorial Team with their assessment, to help them make an informed decision based on the information that you provide.

If you know a journal that should be in DOAJ, please contact the publisher and ask them to complete this form.

BEFORE YOU START, please remember that **all** the content of the journal you are applying about **must** be available **immediately** upon publication.

### Basic Journal Information

1) Journal Title \*

2) URL \*

3) Alternative Title

4) Journal ISSN (print version) \*

Only provide the print ISSN if your journal has one, otherwise leave this field blank. Write the ISSN with the hyphen "-" e.g. 1234-4321.

5) Journal ISSN (online version) \*

Write the EISSN with the hyphen "-" e.g. 1234-4321.

6) Publisher \*

### Quality and Transparency of the Editorial Process

34) What is the URL for the Editorial Board page? \*

The journal must have either an editor or an editorial board with at least 5 clearly identifiable members and affiliation information. We may ask for affiliation information and email addresses as part of our checks.

35) Please select the review process for papers \*

36) Enter the URL where this information can be found \*

This field is optional if you have selected "None" above.

37) What is the URL for the journal's Aims & Scope \*

Capture a Rectangul

# Best Practice

# The principles of Transparency and Best Practice in Scholarly Communication

- The Principles are very much inspired by the initial draft of the new DOAJ criteria, apply not only for Open Access publishing and has developed into de-facto standards.

## Principles of Transparency and Best Practice in Scholarly Publishing

### Introduction

The [Committee on Publication Ethics](#), the Directory of Open Access Journals, the [Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association](#) and the [World Association of Medical Editors](#) are scholarly organizations that have seen an increase in the number, and broad range in the quality of, membership applications. Our organizations have collaborated in an effort to identify principles of transparency and best practice for scholarly publications and to clarify that these principles form part of the criteria on which membership applications will be evaluated.

These criteria are largely derived from those developed by the Directory of Open Access Journals. Note that additional membership criteria may also be used by each of the scholarly organizations. The organizations will not share information about applications received. We do not intend to develop or publish a list of publishers or journals that failed to demonstrate they met the criteria for transparency and best practice.

UPDATE: This is the second version of a work in progress (published June 2015); the first version was posted in January 2014. We encourage its wide dissemination and continue to welcome feedback on the general principles and the specific criteria. Background on the organizations is below.

### Principles of Transparency

#### 1. Peer review process

Journal content must be clearly marked as whether peer reviewed or not. Peer review is defined as obtaining advice on individual manuscripts from reviewers expert in the field who are not part of the journal's editorial staff. This process, as well as any policies related to the journal's peer

- <https://doaj.org/bestpractice>

# The Principles

1. **Peer review process**
2. **Governing Body**
3. **Editorial team/contact**
4. **Author fees**
5. **Copyright**
6. **Identification of and dealing with allegations of research misconduct**
7. **Ownership and management**
8. **Web site.**
9. **Name of journal**
10. **Conflicts of interest**
11. **Access**
12. **Revenue sources**
13. **Advertising**
14. **Publishing schedule**
15. **Archiving**
16. **Direct marketing**

# How do we work?

- Journals apply via the application form
- So far DOAJ is not actively going out to solicit applications
- Lots of information is provided to enable journals to produce a good and detailed application
- Applications are initially triaged
- We receive around 400/month

# Information for Publishers

- 1) How to become a Publisher Member
- 2) Publishing best practice and basic standards for inclusion
- 2a) Copyright, Licensing and Publishing Rights
- 3) Applying for your journal to be in DOAJ
- 4) If your application is accepted
- 5) If your application is rejected
- 6) Publishing disclaimer
- 7) How to get your journal content / article metadata indexed in DOAJ. Uploading content.
- 8) What to do if your XML upload fails
- 9) Troubleshooting your XML upload
- 10) My journal has changed title and ISSN(s)
- 11) How to correct an error in article metadata on DOAJ
- 12) How to make a complaint or appeal
- 13) Does "no Seal" mean we are not indexed in DOAJ?
- 14) FAQs

<https://doaj.org/publishers#licensing>

# three-tier evaluation proces



**Associate Editors:** reviewing applications, communicate with publishers, recommend inclusion/rejection

**Editors:** allocating applications to Associate Editors, recommend inclusion/rejection

**Managing Editors:** allocate applications to Editors & decide on inclusion/rejection

# We are asking about...

- The editorial board
- The peer review process
- Archiving/preservation
- Plagiarism
- Openness
  - Licensing and copyright
  - Re-use rights
- Charges
- ... and much, much more



- **QUALITY AND TRANSPARENCY OF THE EDITORIAL PROCESS**
- The journal must have an editor or an editorial board, all members must be easily identified
- Specification of the review process
  - Editorial review, Peer review., Blind peer review, Double blind peer review, Open Peer Review, Other
- Statements about aims & scope clearly visible
- Instructions to authors shall be available and easily located
- Screening for plagiarism?
- Time from submission to publication

## Quality and Transparency of the Editorial Process

34) What is the URL for the Editorial Board page? \*

The journal must have either an editor or an editorial board with at least 5 clearly identifiable members including affiliation information and email addresses.

35) Please select the review process for papers \*

36) Enter the URL where this information can be found \*

This field is optional if you have selected "None" above.

Specify what kind of review process is applied: Editorial review, Peer Review, Blind Peer Review, Double Blind Peer Review, Open Peer Review

- Openness, Reuse& Remixing rights, Licensing, Copyrights and Permissions!

## How Open is the Journal?

Please remember that **all** the content of the journal you are applying about **must** be available **immediately** upon publication.

42) What is the URL for the journal's Open Access statement? \*

# Reuse/remix

45) Does the journal allow reuse and remixing of its content, in accordance with a CC license? \*

- ☐ CC-BY
- ☐ CC-BY-NC
- ☐ CC-BY-NC-ND
- ☐ CC-BY-ND
- ☐ CC-BY-SA
- ☐ No
- ☒ Other

For more information go to  
<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/>

46) Which of the following does the content require? (Tick all that apply.)

- ☐ Attribution
- ☐ No Commercial Usage
- ☐ No Derivatives
- ☐ Share Alike

47) Enter the URL on your site where your license terms are stated

47) Enter the URL on your site  
where your license terms are  
stated

48) Does the journal allow readers  
to 'read, download, copy,  
distribute, print, search, or link to  
the full texts' of its articles? \*

☐ Yes

☐ No

From the [Budapest Open Access Initiative's definition  
of Open Access](#)

## Copyright and Permissions

50) Does the journal allow the author(s) to hold the copyright without restrictions? \*

☐ Yes

☐ No

☒ Other

51) Enter the URL where this information can be found \*

52) Will the journal allow the author(s) to retain publishing rights without restrictions? \*

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Other

- Archiving is important – too many OA-journals do not have an archiving arrangement

23) What digital archiving policy does the journal use? \*

- ☐ No policy in place  
☐ LOCKSS  
☐ CLOCKSS  
☐ Portico  
☐ PMC/Europe PMC/PMC Canada  
☐ A national library   
☐ Other

Select all that apply. Institutional archives and publishers' own online archives are not valid

24) Enter the URL where this information can be found \*

This field is optional if you have only selected "No policy in place" above

25) Does the journal allow anyone to crawl the full-text of the journal? \*

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

# Plagiarism etc

39) Does the journal have a policy  
of screening for plagiarism? \*

- ☒ Yes  
☐ No

If "No" proceed to question below

40) Enter the URL where this  
information can be found \*

41) What is the average number of  
weeks between submission and  
publication? \*



# Charges

13) Does the journal have article processing charges (APCs)? \*

- ☒ Yes  
☐ No

If "No" proceed to question below

14) Amount \*

15) Currency \*

16) Does the journal have article submission charges? \*

- ☐ Yes  
☒ No

If "No" proceed to question below

21) Does the journal have a waiver policy (for developing country authors etc)? \*

- ☒ Yes  
☐ No

22) Enter the URL where this information can be found \*

## **Must haves for journals to be listed:**

- An Open Access statement
- Comply with the BOAI definition
- A peer-review process, and describe the kind of process
- An editor/editorial board with clearly identifiable members
- Licensing and copyright information
- Aims and scope
- Published a least 5 articles per year to qualify

## **Recommendations to journals wanting to be listed**

- Unrestricted copyright for the author
- No exclusive publishing rights
- No transfer of commercial rights
- Clear licensing conditions
- Preferably use of Creative Commons licensing
- Embedded licensing information with articles
- No mention of impact factors

How much do we work??

# How much do we work?

- Applications handled since March 2014:

- Application Status		
10	count ↓	OR
Rejected (9850)		
Accepted (6869)		
Pending (1590)		
In Progress (376)		
On Hold (159)		
Completed (85)		
Ready (32)		

# Dissemination!

In 2016:

More than 4 million sessions

Almost 3 million users

Almost 12 million page views / average of 3  
pages per session

Average session duration 3 minutes

New visitors 71%

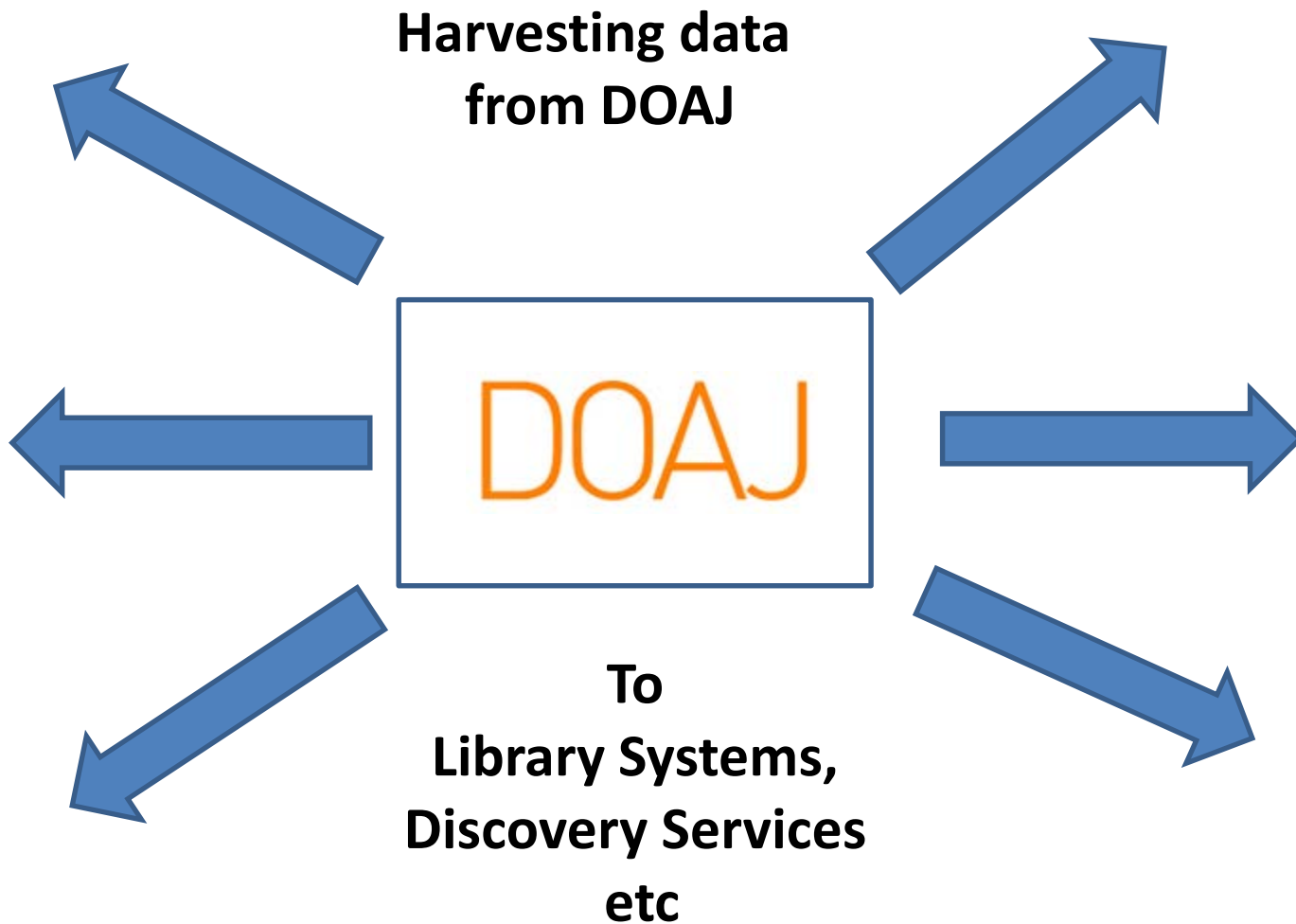
Sessions 2016 – continents and subcontinents:

Continent	Sessions
Asia	1.601.888
Americas	1.301.343
Europe	910.011
Africa	182.480
Oceania	78.228
(not set)	13.920
<b>Total 2016</b>	<b>4.087.870</b>

# DOAJ is aggregating article level metadata







## **API Usage - number of calls:**

2017 Jan 1<sup>st</sup> – April 24<sup>th</sup> (4 months)  
30,334,012

April 2017 (up until 24 April 2017):  
12,795,353

March 2017:  
7,922,904

February 2017:  
6,737,050

January 2017:  
2,878,705

# How do we keep DOAJ clean??

## Questionable publishers

## October 2013

NEWS

### Who's Afraid of Peer Review?

John Bohannon

Dozens of open-access journals targeted in an elaborate *Science* sting accepted a spoof research article, raising questions about peer-review practices in much of the open-access world.

## February 2014

NATURE | NEWS



### Publishers withdraw more than 120 gibberish papers

Conference proceedings removed from subscription databases after scientist reveals that they were computer-generated.

## Questionable publishers

- Predatory publishers – (Beall)

- Definition of predatory:
  - inclined or intended to **injure or exploit** others for personal gain or **profit** (Merriam-Webster)
- A predatory publisher can then be described as
  - a publisher who **intends to injure or exploit** others for personal gain or **profit**.
-

- Consider this:
- “Does **exploiting the divide between libraries** (that typically pay for subscriptions) **and scholars** (who typically use the subscriptions) in order to make **extraordinary high profits** constitute predatory conduct?”
- or this:
- “Does **continuing to raise prices at several times the rate of inflation**, even as those increases cause direct injury to libraries by robbing them of budget flexibility or even make it impossible for them to continue to provide resources – does that constitute **predatory publishing**?”

Questionable publishers – many names:

- ~~Predatory publishers – (Beall)~~
- Illegitimate publishers – no law regulating academic publishing
- Deceptive publishers
- Unethical publishers
- In DOAJ we call them:
- **Questionable publishers**

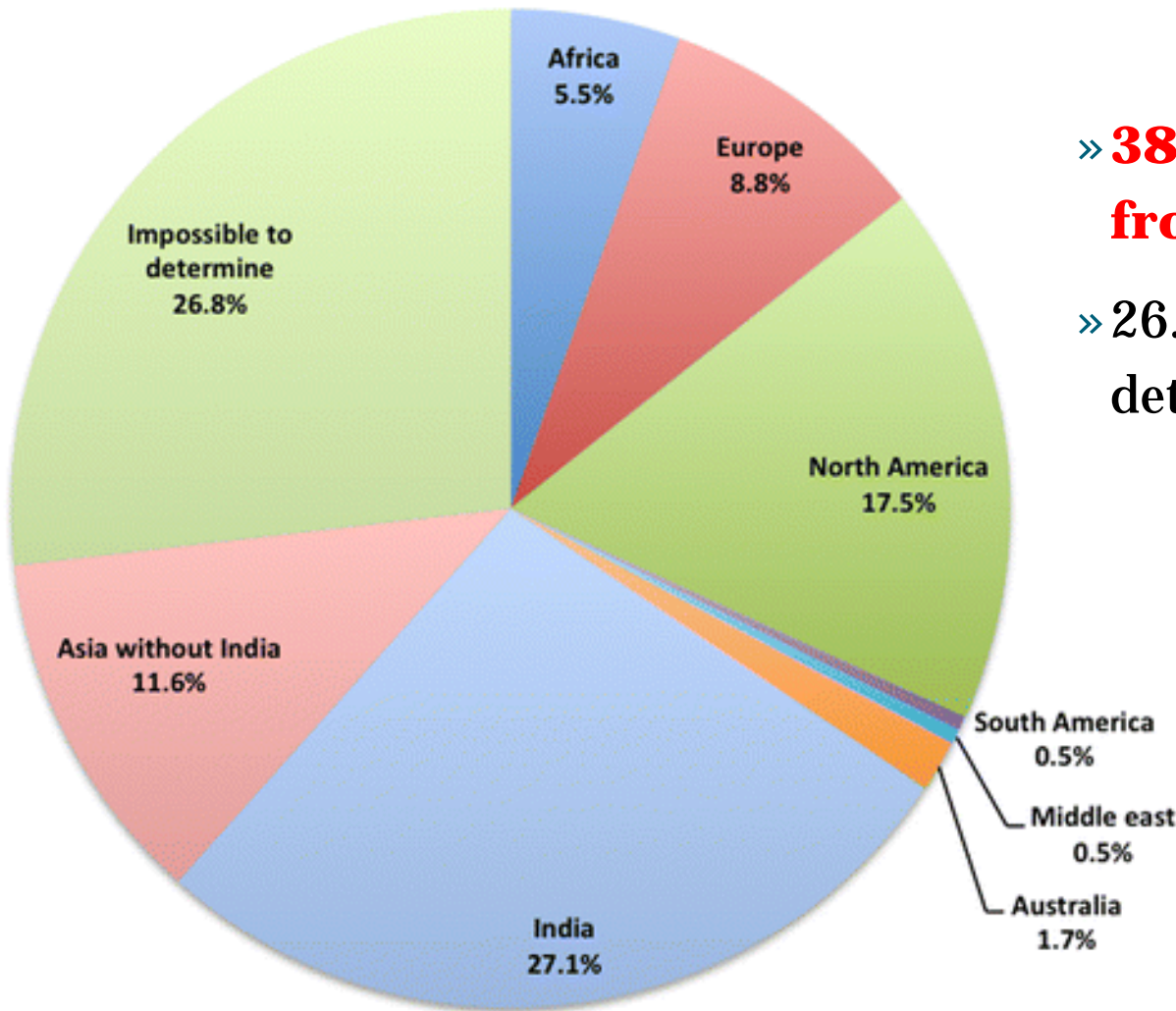


Our definition:

Questionable publishers is  
publishers, who are **not living up** to  
reasonable standards in terms of  
**content, services, transparency** and  
**business behavior.**

# Main Results

## country of publishers



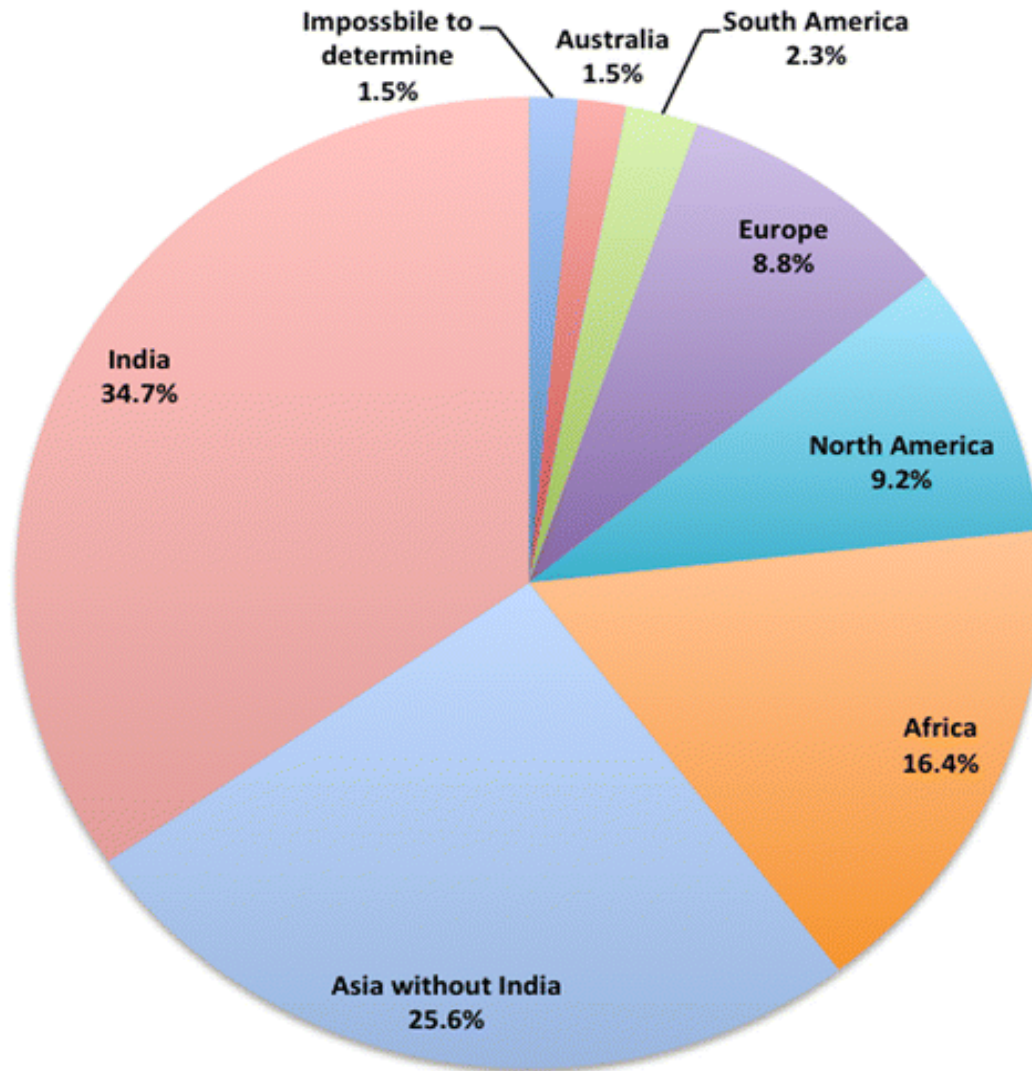
» **38.7% -Asia (27.1% from India)**

» 26.8% -Impossible to determine

from Shen & Björk)

# Main Results

## country of authors



» **60.3% - Asia (34.7% from India)**

» 16.4% - Africa

from Shen & Björk)

- Why are researchers publishing in questionable journals?
  - Ignorance – lack of attention to the faith of the paper
  - Aggressive marketing cheats researchers
  - Publish or Perish – get something on my C.V. – subito! – pays off!
  - Research Assessment – decision makers counting beans!
  - Exclusion

# Reducing the attraction

- Research managers/funders/decision makers:
  - Research assessment based on actual assessment of the research!!
  - OA-publishing mandates
  - Lists of accredited publishing channels!?
- Professors/PI/research managers:
  - Make **Publishing Literacy** an integral part of (training in) Research Integrity

# How do we spot Questionable Publishers/Journals

## How does DOAJ detect questionable journals?

- Low publishing quality
  - Journal name, website, fees, peer review, publisher, ownership, volume of articles, advertisements, prominent soliciting for editors, ambiguous company address, many journals and few articles
- Low scientific quality
  - focus, format, self-citations, plagiarism
- Malpractice
  - false claims, hidden costs, spamming authors, wrong information,

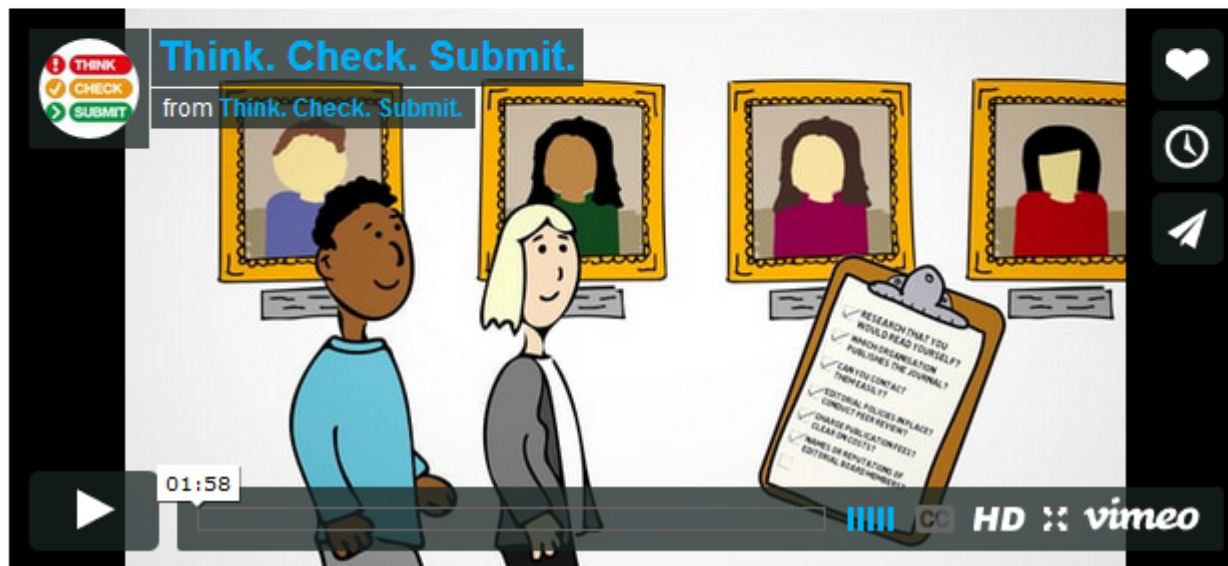
- Inappropriate marketing practices
  - Spam emails
- Journal titles with “International”, “American” or “European”
- Very broad scope, multidisciplinary
- Fake impact factors
- Advertise very quick publishing
- Advertise a relative low publication fee
- No or little quality control of articles
- Low-standard peer review process or even don't have peer review at all



- Publishers deemed questionable will not be able to re-apply for listing for up to three years
- An appeal procedure is in place
- Transparent:
  - We have a publicly available list of journals added and removed



Choose the right journal for your research



**Think. Check. Submit.** is a campaign to help researchers identify trusted journals for their research. It is a simple checklist researchers can use to assess the credentials of a journal or publisher.

How are we funded??

# Funding

- DOAJ is independent and entirely dependent on funding from the community
  - Universities, university libraries and library consortia can support DOAJ with a yearly membership fee - <https://doaj.org/membership>
  - Smaller publishers can as well support DOAJ via a yearly membership fee – minimum £ (GBP) 200/year - <https://doaj.org/support>
  - Larger publishers can sponsor DOAJ - <https://doaj.org/sponsors>.

# Funding

- 400+ University **libraries** from 28 countries
- 16 **Library** Consortia from 13 Countries
- 10 Research Funders/Academies of Science
- 35+ smaller publishers
- 20+ Sponsors - publishers and aggregators

# Governance!

## INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES FOR OPEN ACCESS

[www.is4oa.org](http://www.is4oa.org)



Founded by  
Caroline Sutton,  
Alma Swan &  
Lars Bjørnshauge



## INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES FOR OPEN ACCESS

**A not-for-profit Community Interest Company  
(C.I.C.), registered in the United Kingdom.**



# New Governance Model

- Board 8-10 seats, nominated by major contributors
  - tasks: Advice and feedback on Business issues (Strategy, Budget, End of Year Results, Fundraising Strategy)
- Council: Broader Advisory Group
  - 20-25 seats (to allow for geographical and stakeholder diversity). Based on a general call for nominations from current supporters.
- Scientific Advisory Group
- Ethics Committee
- Fundraising Committee
- Communication/Marketing Committee
- (to be implemented during 2018)

Is DOAJ sustainable?

- Based on the available funding we do our best, but...
- Tight cash flow
- Would like to develop the system and services much more
- Would like to have money in the bank
- Major organizations would like DOAJ to be sustainable!!



[Home](#) › [SCOSS](#)

## **The Global Sustainability Coalition for Open Science Services (SCOSS)**

*Facilitating funding to ensure the long-term sustainability of the world's Open Science infrastructure*

Some developments and services which could be secured through a sustainable funding model

- Strategic, long term development of the platform and services
- Reduce turnaround times on applications
- Increase the recency and accuracy of the index, especially by allowing publishers to update their own journal information.
- Move from a proprietary DTD to the publishing standard, JATS.
- Continue to expand internationally and include journals from the Global South.
- Continue our advocacy work directed at influencing decision makers to a transition to open access for local language journals.
- Develop functionality which will allow DOAJ to actively harvest article-level metadata for the 11.000 journals in DOAJ.
- Enhance the DOAJ metadata through enrichment, such as DOIs, integrated article-level metrics (ALMs), ORCID IDs etc.

# Collaboration!

# Collaboration!

- COPE, OASPA, WAME – the principles of transparency and best practice of scholarly publishing
- Keepers' Registry – certified archiving organizations
- (OJS) PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE PROJECT
- RESEARCH4LIFE – screening OA-journals
- ISSN
- OASPA, STM, ALPSP, LIBER etc:



- [www.thinkchecksubmit.org](http://www.thinkchecksubmit.org)

# DOAJ – much more than a list of journals!

- A global list of peer-reviewed Open Access journals – all subjects and languages
  - journals undergo evaluation based on a set of criteria
  - 11.000 titles (February 2018)
- An aggregation of article level metadata
  - Publishers upload article metadata into DOAJ
  - 73% of the journals do so
  - Currently 2.900.000 records
- All DOAJ services and data are free for all to use, download and re-use



- We are global and **we want to help!**
- Respecting different publishing cultures and traditions
- Not primarily exclude, but rather **facilitate and assist** the journals to improve their operations and to come into the global flow of information
- **While at the same time** promoting standards, transparency and best practice

Our ambition: DOAJ to be **the**  
authoritative list of good Open  
Access Journals!

and make other lists superfluous – that is:  
if a journal is in the DOAJ it complies with  
accepted standards –

**if not: take care!**

Thanks to  
all the Library Consortia, Universities and Publishers  
and our Sponsors for the financial support to DOAJ!

**Silver sponsors**



**Bronze sponsors**

